

**Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan**  
**Technical Advisory Committee – Finance Subcommittee**

<b>Subject</b>	Finance Subcommittee Meeting #4 Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework	<b>Date</b>	May 24, 2021
<b>Facilitator</b>	Elizabeth Andrews	<b>Time</b>	10:00am – 12:00pm
<b>Location</b>	WebEx - <a href="https://governor.virginia.gov/i/v0rjr">https://governor.virginia.gov/i/v0rjr</a>	<b>Scribe</b>	Emily Sokol

<b>Invitees/Attendees</b>			
<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Role</b>	<b>Attended?</b>
<b>Finance Subcommittee Members and Staff Advisors</b>			
1.	Elizabeth Andrews - Chair	Director, Virginia Coastal Policy Center at William & Mary Law School	Y
2.	Peter D'Alema – Vice Chair	Director of Program Management, Virginia Resource Authority	Y
3.	Laura McKay – Staff Advisor	Program Manager, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program	Y
4.	Clyde Cristman	Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation	Y
5.	Bob Crum, Jr.	Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission	Y
6.	Dr. Troy Hartley	Director, Virginia Sea Grant	Y
7.	Traci Munyan	Program Administrative Manager, Department of Housing and Community Development	Y
8.	Richard Klein	Civil Works Program Manager, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District	Y
9.	Lewis Lawrence	Executive Director, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission	Y
10.	Stephen Moret	President & CEO, The Virginia Economic Development Partnership	
11.	Robbie Coates	Grants Division Director, Virginia Department of Emergency Management	Y
12.	Eric Letsinger	CEO, Quantified Ventures	
13.	Erin Sutton	Chief Deputy, Virginia Department of Emergency Management	
<b>Scheduled Speakers</b>			
14.	Willie Fobbs	Associate Director, Housing Production and Preservation, Division of Housing	Y
15.	Jay Grant	Deputy Director, Division of Community Development	Y
16.	Matt Weaver	Associate Director, Policy & Strategy Development Office, Division of Community Development, VA Dept. of Housing & Community Development	Y
17.	Tom Crabbs	Military Liaison, Commonwealth of Virginia Office of the Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs; Captain USCG (retired)	Y
18.	Jaime Simon	Deputy Program Director, DoD REPI Program	Y
<b>Designated Alternates</b>			
19.	Lee Hutchinson	Resiliency Program Analyst, Department of Housing and Community Development	Y
20.	Curtis Smith	Deputy Director, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission	Y
<b>Subcommittee Advisors</b>			
21.	Shurui Zhang	Commonwealth Coastal and Marine Policy Fellow	Y
<b>Other Participants</b>			
22.	Ann Phillips	Rear Admiral, US Navy (Ret.) – Office of the Governor	Y
23.	Connor Winstead	VA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation	Y
24.	Matt Dalon	VA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation	Y
25.	Nick Meade	DEQ	Y
26.	Carille Greenberg Ribley		Y

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27.	Denise Nelson	Environmental Engineer, George Washington Regional Commission	Y
28.	Grace Tucker	EDF	Y
29.	Jason Powell		Y
30.	Margaret Rockwell		Y
31.	Keith Cannady	HRPDC	Y
32.	Virginia Hagerott		Y
33.	Emily Steinhilber	Environmental Defense Fund	Y
Consultant Support			
34.	Emma Kilkelly	Dewberry	Y
35.	Brian Batten	Dewberry	Y
36.	Jessica Fleck	Dewberry	Y
37.	Johanna Greenspan-Johnston	Dewberry	Y
38.	Dale Morris	The Water Institute of the Gulf	Y
39.	Emily Sokol	Vision Planning and Consulting	Y

Agenda/Minutes		
#	Agenda Item	Minutes
1.	Roll Call and Quorum Affirmation	Elizabeth Andrews called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and asked Laura McKay to take roll to establish a quorum. Laura advised that a quorum was present.
2.	Welcome and Chapter 1289 Reading	<p>Elizabeth read the required Section 1289 verbiage and asked for a motion to continue the meeting virtually. Peter D'Alema so moved, and Clyde Cristman seconded. Laura conducted the vote, and the motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>It was announced that if a disruption occurs, please contact Nick Meade at <a href="mailto:nick.meade@deq.virginia.gov">nick.meade@deq.virginia.gov</a> or 804-698-4297.</p> <p>Elizabeth advised all public attendees to insert questions in the chat box, which would be moderated by Nick Meade throughout the meeting. Elizabeth introduced all of the speakers and advised the Subcommittee members to hold questions for the speakers until the end, as there was a full slate of presentations being briefed. She assured the attendees that time could also be allocated at the June Subcommittee meeting for further questions regarding the presentations being given today.</p>
3.	<b>Robbie Coates</b> , Director of Grant Programs, Financial Management Bureau, VA Dept. of Emergency Management – FEMA Grants, including BRIC	Elizabeth introduced Robbie Coates, who briefed on the various funding opportunities available through FEMA for resilience projects, including the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program. His presentation included a brief of existing Virginia projects currently undergoing the BRIC application process, as well as a description of FEMA's efforts to identify vulnerable populations in Virginia that should be promoted for the development of projects that can be included in applications for future Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants (See Attached Slides).

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4.	<p><b>Willie Fobbs</b>, Associate Director, Housing Production and Preservation, Division of Housing; <b>Lee Hutchinson</b>, Resiliency Program Analyst, Department of Housing and Community Development – HUD Grants, including CDBGs, Federal HOME, National Housing Trust Fund, and Housing Innovations in Energy Efficiency (HIEE)</p>	<p>Elizabeth opened the floor to Lee Hutchinson, who presented on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, how this program can be used to promote resiliency in Virginia, and funding that is available through these programs. He identified that, while the emphasis of this program is on recovery, the goal is to create housing opportunities that are resilient, which includes the promotion of projects that create resilient public infrastructure (See Attached Slides).</p> <p>Willie Fobbs then presented on the Affordable and Special Needs Housing (ASNH) Program, which is partially funded through federal and state funds and is intended to fund housing projects and assist in increasing the number of affordable housing units throughout the Commonwealth, with an additional focus on energy efficiency projects (See Attached Slides).</p> <p>In preparation for Q&amp;A after the presentations, Elizabeth asked the speakers to consider how these funding sources could be used to address resilience projects, though they might not be specifically targeted to resilience. She also encouraged all of the speakers to share any “lessons learned” that they might have, such as things that applicants have done or not done that resulted in them not getting funding.</p>
5.	<p><b>Tom Crabbs</b>, Military Liaison, VA Office of Veterans &amp; Defense Affairs, and <b>Jaime Simon</b>, Deputy Program Director – DoD’s Readiness &amp; Environmental Protection (REPI) Program and Sentinel Landscapes program funding</p>	<p>Elizabeth opened the floor to Tom Crabbs, who introduced Jaime Simon, Deputy Program Director for DoD’s REPI Program. Jaime presented on the challenges currently facing the DoD, as well as the policies it has leveraged and the planning tools it has used to maintain its mission and promote military installation resilience in the face of a changing climate, especially through the REPI Program (See Attached Slides and Handout). Jaime stressed that the REPI Program is a great source for funding for resiliency projects being conducted by the State or the localities, and that Virginia currently has 8 projects that are part of the REPI program.</p>
6.	<p><b>Richard Klein</b>, Chief, Programs and Civil Works Branch, Norfolk District, USACE – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ studies and programs</p>	<p>Elizabeth opened the floor to Richard Klein for the final presentation. Richard briefed the Subcommittee on the organizational structure of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the four funding sources used by the Norfolk District to operate projects, USACE’s 2-year budget cycle, the five major groups for appropriations included in the Civil Works Branch, the variety of funding programs included in these appropriations, and various Corps-funded projects (See Attached Slides).</p>
7.	<p>Discussion Period</p>	<p>Comment by Willie: To formulate the initial rollout of the first RGGI auction proceeds and advise a long-term plan for the use of those funds, DHCD formed a stakeholder advisory group in November 2020. Of the initial \$21.7 million that came to DHCD from the first auction, 60% (approximately \$16 million) was allocated to the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) for low-income families and 40% (approximately \$8.7 million) was allocated through the ASNH. Beginning in FY 22, planned allocation will shift a planned 60% to ASNH (approx. \$33 million), 30% to support WAP (approximately \$16 million), and 10% for new “Innovation Grants” (approximately \$5.5 million). We wanted to provide WAP with a stable source of funding in its initial years. Now, the “Innovation Grants” are being incorporated to provide opportunities for innovative pilot projects that support broader resiliency and energy efficiency efforts. These allocation amounts are not necessarily set</p>

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		<p>in stone – they will remain flexible to make funds available for innovative projects. Here is the link to the DHCD webpage for the HIEE Program and information on the HIEE Stakeholder process; these meetings are open to the public:  <a href="https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/hiee">https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/hiee</a></p> <p>Q: Curt Smith (in chat)- VA Community Flood Preparedness Funding represents a significant opportunity for VA to utilize these funds as local match for FEMA grants, yet the draft CFPF grant manual does not allow for these funds to be used as match. Why are CFPF funds not allowed to be used as match to leverage greater resilience benefits for the Commonwealth?</p> <p>A: Clyde Cristman and Russ Baxter, DCR- That was an error in the draft. We have not finalized the manual, but we expect that change to be made. We have a meeting tomorrow with the Secretary of Natural Resources' office to address these concerns, so we will keep you updated with a more informed answer.</p> <p>Discussion Point: Peter- (For Richard) It sounds like the planning process for USACE is set to begin two years in advance of when the projects are implemented. How are these projects identified so early?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richard- We have general outreach processes that are conducted; however, it is an ill-defined process before projects are identified. We continually have to compete each budget cycle, but once the projects are identified, we have a standardized process for planning.</li> <li>• Peter: If that is the case, then is it the local government that begins the project and approaches USACE, or does USACE reach out first?</li> <li>• Richard: The local government begins the project. There must be a standing authority to perform a study.</li> <li>• Rear Admiral Ann Phillips: Virginia currently has the authority, but not the funding, for a full coastal study. Every year, we have applied but not received funding. The Virginia Beach study, which is pending, includes the south side of Hampton Roads, as well as northeastern North Carolina. There is also a second pending study for the Peninsula of Hampton Roads, including Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, James City County, Yorktown, and Williamsburg.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion Point: Dr. Troy Hartley- (For Matt Weaver) You noted that nature-based solutions are not the focus or necessarily encouraged through CDBG funding – is that because it cannot be (i.e., HUD rules in application of CDBG), or a policy choice at this point?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matt Weaver: It is more of a policy choice. At DHCD, we do not mandate what a solution could be. If a locality came up with a nature-based solution, we would be happy to work with them. Most projects have been focused on sewage systems and other infrastructure, but we would like to see some creative opportunities to address nature-based projects. Additionally, most jurisdictions receive their own CDBG funds that can be used for regional efforts.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elizabeth: What is the best first step if you are a locality proposing a nature-based project?</li> <li>• Matt: From a state-level planning process, first think of all avenues that may be advantageous. Work with building and zoning professionals to identify nature-based projects that could be effectively implemented. We are happy to work with local partners and engineering firms to help develop these projects.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion Point: Dr. Hartley- (For all presenters) In your experience, have you seen examples where communities have stacked various funding sources in effective ways. We keep hearing in this Subcommittee that these projects are often very expensive with large budgets, and that funding sources are very competitive. You just have to hope that you can close all gaps in funding. Do you have any successful examples of communities that have stacked funding for a resiliency project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robbie: It has been a few years, but there was a project in Henry County that focused on drainage improvement and community revitalization. They took advantage of the opportunity to use CDBG as match funding for another federal program. There are a couple of examples, but you are right- the timing of applying and receiving these different funding sources is everything. For FEMA BRIC grants, we are trying to identify preliminary analyses that have not received funding to do the work in the past, unearthing these and promoting them now that we have the funding to address them.</li> <li>• Richard (in chat): Not from USACE, not aware of an example in these types of projects of stacking funds.</li> <li>• Mr. Crabbs: I am not aware of stacking approaches. Within the REPI and Sentinel Landscapes opportunities, they are mainly authority driven. However, we should keep our eye on those solutions as, with growing opportunities, we could make ourselves more prepared for stacking opportunities.</li> <li>• Lewis Lawrence: We stack funding sources all the time on our MPPDC projects. Let me know from which agencies you are interested in stacking funding sources, and we can talk about potential opportunities.</li> <li>• Mr. Crabbs: I think Jaime mentioned the opportunity to stack REPI and BRIC.</li> <li>• Matt: As Lewie noted, local PDC's will have familiarity with what funding opportunities are available for stacking. Getting REPI funds into rural areas would also play well into the economic development realm. We work with a variety of agencies to make sure that localities developing projects are aware of their opportunities. Additionally, the long environmental review process may give you time to seek additional funds.</li> <li>• Lee: Isn't there a checklist in the application process that allows applicants to identify existing funding sources for the project?</li> <li>• Matt: Yes, almost every agency has these checklists, though they may vary depending on the agency's priorities.</li> <li>• Robbie (in chat): FEMA asks for non-federal funding sources in their application.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion Point: Jay Grant, DHCD- We encourage localities to utilize planning dollars, whether they come from CDBG. We often see resiliency projects in which CDBG funding can cover one factor of a project, such as an infrastructure element of a more holistic project. We are always looking for creative solutions and an opportunity to stack funding.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laura: To build on what Matt was saying about including economic development when stacking resources, we are currently providing coastal zone management funding to develop eco-tourism in rural areas and stacking that with resilience efforts. Middle Peninsula, Eastern Shore, and Northern Neck have found that combining economic development with eco-tourism and resiliency is a good approach for closing funding gaps.</li> </ul> <p>Elizabeth opened the floor for Dewberry representatives to share comments and recommended that, at the June meeting, the Subcommittee put together a list of examples that could advise Dewberry on how these funding sources might be stacked.</p> <p>Discussion Point: Jessica Fleck- We look forward to having an open forum in June to get your feedback. Stacking could be very useful and going through a real-time example would be helpful in our process. I have a question for all the speakers: What are some of the obstacles your programs face or that face projects that seek your funding?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robbie: The biggest challenge for FEMA grants is that, in the past, the localities with the greatest drive have been submitting the most applications. Our challenge has been applying for technical assistance by the localities that need it most. Because these localities do not have the resources to apply, we would like to offer our support. However, we cannot apply for them.</li> <li>• Matt: Program regulations and statutes are our greatest limitation. We can only work in non-entitlement communities, so we are often limited by jurisdiction and the regulations that are built into the program.</li> <li>• Mr. Crabbs: I agree. Additionally, I think one major obstacle is lack of awareness in the process. Often, funding opportunities are not well-advertised, and the first steps in approaching the funding process can be quite difficult.</li> <li>• Richard: The main obstacle for USACE is the limited federal funding available in our programs, as we must compete nationwide for both large and small programs. Hopefully this year there will be an infrastructure bill that can help fund these projects, but limited federal funding is what holds many of these projects back.</li> <li>• Elizabeth: Rear Admiral Phillips and I have talked about the problem of awareness of grant opportunities, and possibly having someone with the State to identify better ways of advertising these funding opportunities.</li> <li>• Laura: We do have a tab in the Resilience Projects Database that includes descriptions of 54 funding sources, which was developed by Wetlands Watch and funded by the CZM Program. It also has a calendar of grant deadlines and what is required for applications, so we should advertise this database widely once it is available on the ADAPT VA website.</li> <li>• Elizabeth: The challenge is who will update and maintain the database effectively, but many entities will have access to update and add funding sources.</li> </ul>
8.	Public Comment Period	Elizabeth opened the floor for public comment. Nick advised that no public comments had been posed throughout the course of the meeting.

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9.	Wrap-Up and Motion to Adjourn	<p>Elizabeth informed the Subcommittee that Lewis Lawrence is scheduled to speak at the next meeting in June, and Eric Letsinger would be available to answer questions regarding his previous presentation in April. She also advised that, though scheduled to present at the July meeting, Bob Crum could be asked to speak at the June meeting. Additionally, Elizabeth recognized that Dewberry had sent three questions that the Subcommittee needs to address, and she has not yet received any answers from the Subcommittee. She asked the Subcommittee to submit answers and be prepared to discuss their perspectives with Dewberry during the June meeting.</p> <p>Elizabeth advised the Subcommittee that the meeting agenda, minutes, and presentations would be posted to allow for further review. She asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peter motioned, and Clyde seconded. Elizabeth adjourned the meeting at 12:01 pm.</p>

<b>Action Items</b>			
<b>#</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Owner (Organization)</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
1.	<p>Consider answers to the following questions to be discussed with Dewberry members at the June Subcommittee meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have any Finance Subcommittee members analyzed or utilized any innovative financing mechanisms or policies – e.g., environmental impact bonds, tax credits - beyond the Hampton EIB?</li> <li>2. What experience have Finance Subcommittee members encountered or learned about which have limited applicants' access to funding programs or made it more challenging? Are there other success stories beyond those listed in the VA Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework?</li> <li>3. Can members share specific challenges due to socioeconomic conditions - such as inability to meet matching requirements or not qualifying for programs because of higher income residents in the same geography/community limiting eligibility?</li> </ol>	All	June 28

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Sokol, Vision Planning and Consulting, at [esokol@vision-pc.net](mailto:esokol@vision-pc.net).